









ADDRESS OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We congratulate the people of North Carolina upon the overwhelming defeat of the Prohibition Bill, at the election in August last.

The passage of this Bill was an extraordinary piece of legislation, and presented an emergency both sudden and serious. The issue thus forced upon the people was without precedent; and after considering the Bill in all its bearings, this Committee deemed it their duty to have recourse to the power inherent in organizations of this character, and thereupon they issued an Address assigning reasons why the Prohibition Bill should not be ratified by a vote of the people. This action was at once denounced as beyond the authority of the Committee and of no binding force. Even if there was honesty of opinion and purity of motive with those who denied the power of the Committee to issue such an Address, this question is no longer debatable. Past events have shown that the action of the Committee was timely and wise, and that great good has resulted therefrom. However decided the opinion may have been that the Committee acted without authority, their action should now be accepted as within the scope and authority of their undoubted powers. Withholding less than this would be to surrender all that has been gained by said action, and would put the Committee in the position of having wilfully assumed power that did not rightfully belong to them. Honest difference of opinion cannot have proceeded to this extent, and whatever may be the future final decision of this question of power, the vote of the people proved that the Committee only formulated the judgment of the masses, and were correct in their view of the measure.

The efforts to establish popular government in North Carolina, as evidenced by the "Western Address," issued many years before the war, demanding that the people should be allowed to elect every officer clothed with a portion of the sovereignty of the state, culminated in the adoption of the constitution of 1868. By this constitution the Peace Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, township officers, and all the Judges and officers of the Courts, were elected by the people. Since the Act of the Legislature passed in 1877, known as the "County Government Act," the people have been deprived of the election of these officers and the Legislature has usurped the power that rightfully belongs to the people; and for far years Justices of the Peace have been elected by the Legislature, County Commissioners have been elected by the Justices of the Peace, and Judges, Clerks and other officers of special and inferior Courts have been elected by the Legislature. Reasons for this action which checked the consciences of members of the Legislature were hostile to the rights of the people and have long since ceased to exist. The necessary and legitimate result of this taking of power from the multitude and conferring upon a prescribed few, was the enactment of the Prohibition question, the agitation of the Prohibition question, the Commissioners of a number of counties followed the example of higher authority and arrogated to themselves the rights of the people, and declined to issue license to men who desired to engage in a business hitherto with age and legalized by the state and nation. This was rank usurpation—fomented and brought about by the fact that the Commissioners are not the servants of the people because they are not removable from office by the people for malfeasance of this character. The disastrous effect of the Prohibition Bill put a sudden stoppage to this summary action of irresponsible County Commissioners. Their people are to rule this state through a free vote and fair count. The right of the people to elect every officer provided for by the Constitution and the laws of the state is not a party question. It is an inherent right—separable from manhood suffrage—and is founded in the hearts and consciences of the good and lawful men of every commonwealth. The denial of this right is a direct attack upon the liberty and integrity of the people, and is a pungent admission that the people of North Carolina are dishonest by nature, corrupt by education, and are incapable of governing themselves!

Past events growing out of the present un-democratic system of county and township governments, must have convinced every discriminating man that the time has come, when, without regard to other questions of political character, the people as a mass—not as Democrats—nor as Republicans—must join an alliance—join hands with each other—and restore the election of all officers of the people. The only way to attain this object is by electing the members of this principle of popular government to the Legislature at the election in November 1883. This great work of Reform must be accomplished before the session of the General Assembly in January 1884. A further amendment will invite the enemies of the people to new assaults upon popular government in proportion as the people are kept from electing their own officers and from electing their own representatives.

turn to the primitive method of a People's government as set forth in the "Western Address," and as embodied in the constitution of 1868. The people have submitted quietly to the destruction of the county government system, and having refused during the past four years to disregard party ties and make a combined effort to repeal the Act of 1877, and re-organize the county governments in conformity with the provisions of the constitution of 1868, the Legislature, at its session last winter, followed the example of its immediate predecessor, and in its war upon the rights of the people, proceeded to the extremity of making an attack upon Personal Liberty, and attempted to destroy the business and property of private citizens, by the passage of the Prohibition Bill.

Necessarily the issued raised by the passage of the Prohibition Bill is one of Personal Liberty. Like the denial of the right of electing county officers by the people, the Prohibition question affects every citizen of the state. Both are based upon a contemptuous disregard of the natural rights of the people. Fortunately the attack upon Personal Liberty and Private Property as embodied in the Prohibition Bill, did not succeed;—but it must not be assumed because of the unprecedented majority against the Prohibition Bill, that the contest is finally ended. And he who is opposed to local self-government,—he who is against the people and in favor of a government by a favored few, must be compelled by the refusing of the masses to take position, so that it may be known whether he is FOR or AGAINST the people. All citizens of whatever party, are interested in the permanent success of governmental reorganization which promises to explode the close corporation existing in each General Assembly, and which will certainly take the control of townships and counties out of the hands of the "bosses" and "jugglers," and restore it to the mass of voters, and retire the tainted atherents of this vicious and corrupt system to swift and unending oblivion.

We therefore cordially invite the citizens of North Carolina, irrespective of past party affiliations, to unite on this great question—one of the common battle grounds for Personal Liberty and for the accumulation and protection of private property.

By order of the Republican State Committee.

J. J. MOTT, Chairman.

J. C. L. HARRIS, Secretary.

October 15, 1881.

We have received so many letters inquiring about the Judicial Districts of the state that we publish below the list:

- First District—Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Hertford, Gates, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico and Beaufort.
- Second District—Wake, Warren, Halifax, Northampton, Edgecombe, Bertie, Martin and Graham.
- Third District—Nash, Wilson, Pitt, Greene, Wayne, Lenoir, Jones, Carteret, Onslow, Duplin, Sampson, New Hanover and Pender.
- Fourth District—Harnett, Moore, Anson, Richmond, Robeson, Columbus, Brunswick, Bladen, Cumberland and Johnston.
- Fifth District—Alamance, Randolph, Guilford, Chatham, Franklin, Orange, Granville, Person, Caswell and Rockingham.
- Sixth District—Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, Montgomery, Union, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk.
- Seventh District—Davie, Yadkin, Wilkes, Alleghany, Surry, Stokes, Forsythe, Davidson and Rowan.
- Eighth District—Catawba, Burke, McDowell, Yancey, Mitchell, Watauga, Ashe, Caldwell, Alexander and Iredell.
- Ninth District—Rutherford, Madison, Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Clay, Graham and Cherokee.

DIRECTORY OF LODGES.

- MASONIC—(WHITE.)
- St. John's Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M., meet last Thursday evening of each month, at Masonic Hall.
- Wilmington Lodge No. 33, F. & A. M., meet 2d Tuesday in each month, at Masonic Hall.
- Concord Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M., meet 1st Monday in each month, at Masonic Hall.
- Wilmington Council No. 4, R. A. O. M., meet 3d Tuesday in each month, at Masonic Hall.
- Wilmington Commandery No. 1, K. T., meet 3d Wednesday in each month, at Masonic Hall.
- KNIGHTS OF HONOR.
- Carroll Lodge No. 1, meet 1st and 3d Mondays in each month, at Odd Fellows Hall.
- I. O. O. F.
- Cape Fear Lodge No. 2, meets every Tuesday evening.
- Union Lodge No. 67, meets every Wednesday evening.
- Camellie Encampment No. 1, meets 1st and 3d Friday evening of each month.
- Wilmington Lodge meets 1st and 3d Thursday evening of each month.
- Wilmington Lodge meets 1st and 3d Thursday evening of each month.
- O. E. S. B.
- Manhattan Lodge No. 138, meets 1st and 3d Sunday in each month, at 11 o'clock p. m.
- ROYAL ARCHES.
- Corvus Lodge No. 33, meets 1st, 3d, 5th and 7th Monday evening of each month.
- The above Lodges meet at Odd Fellows Hall, Third between Prince and Queen streets.
- KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.
- Shoreline Lodge No. 1, meets every Monday at Castle Hall, on Third street.
- Germania Lodge No. 1, meets every Thursday evening at Castle Hall.
- Suburban Lodge No. 23, meet 1st Friday in each month, at Castle Hall.
- I. O. B. M.
- Wyoming Tribe No. 4, meets every Tuesday evening, at Castle Hall on Prince between Third and Second streets.
- MASONIC—(GREEN.)
- St. John Lodge meet 1st and 3d Monday in each month, at Castle Hall on Third street.
- Green Lodge, meet 1st and 3d Monday in each month, at Castle Hall on Third street.
- O. E. U. O. F.
- Free Love Lodge, meet 1st and 3d Thursday in each month, at Castle Hall on Third street.
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